

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the remarks and analysis contained in the Office Action. Claims 1, 10 and 15 have been amended. New claims 21-27 are added above. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. New claims 21-27 present claims 5-8, 14 and 17-18 rewritten in independent form as appropriate.

The specification has been amended above to include the specific serial number and filing date as appropriate.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections based upon WO 01-14630. Nothing in that document, expressly or inherently, discloses or suggests the claimed invention. Prior to this invention, mold wheels were used during a jacket application process such that tension control as claimed was not used in the manner as claimed. Controlling individual tensions on the cords is nowhere hinted at or possibly “inherently” taught by the cited WO document. Individualized cord tension control is not even possible with many previous belt making strategies, which was the state of the art at the time of the cited WO document and without any specific disclosure of a departure from that methodology, the cited document cannot be used as “inherently” disclosing the claimed invention.

With regard to the smooth surface limitation of claim 10, nothing in the cited WO document teaches an arrangement where the smooth surface extends along an entire length of the belt. At best, the cross-sectional illustrations of the WO document only show a surface at one point along the length. The schematic illustration of Figure 1 in the

WO document cannot be fairly interpreted as teaching the claimed characteristics of the exterior of the coating on that belt assembly.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections under 103 of claims 13 and 19. That which is missing from the WO document as noted above is not taught by the JP document so that the proposed combination is not the same as the claimed invention.

Applicant respectfully submits that this case is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference will facilitate moving this case forward to being issued, Applicant's representative will be happy to discuss any issues regarding this application and can be contacted at the telephone number indicated below.

Applicant believes that additional fees in the amount of \$462.00 are required for seven claims in excess of twenty and four additional independent claims. A Credit Card Payment Form in the amount of \$462.00 is enclosed. The Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1482 in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds for any additional fees or credit the account for any overpayment.

Respectfully submitted,

CARLSON, GASKEY & OLDS

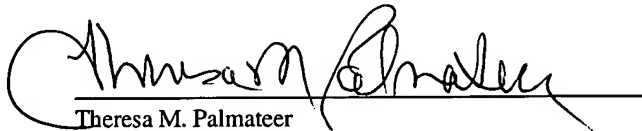
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Dated: 9/30/03

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that the enclosed Response is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on


Theresa M. Palmateer

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